

- 1 2. A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein
2 said I/O devices are communication links, cryptographic
3 adapters, printers, or plotters.
- 4 3. A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein
5 said configuration tool may be an integral part of said
6 program.
- 7 4. A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein
8 said configuration tool and said reader access layer
9 may be an integral part of said program.
- 10 5. A data processing system according to claim 2, wherein
11 said configuration tool having access to a reader
12 access list defining access rights and access
13 priorities for that program in conjunction with said
14 readers connected to said system.
- 15 6. A data processing system according to claim 5, wherein
16 for all installed programs a common reader access list
17 is available defining access rights and access
18 priorities for those programs in conjunction with said
19 readers connected to said system.
- 20 7. A data processing system according to claim 5, wherein
21 for each installed program a single reader access list
22 is available defining access rights and access
23 priorities for that program in conjunction with said
24 readers connected with said system.

1 a reader access list defining access conditions of each
2 programs installed on said client to readers
3 connected to said client, and

4 a configuration tool for specifying access conditions
5 of said programs to said readers connected to said
6 client.

7 10. A method for accessing readers by means of a system
8 according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

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9      sending a request for using a reader from said program
10     to reader access layer;

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11         calling up a reader access list by said reader access
12         layer;

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13 carrying out a routine by said reader access layer by
14 means of said reader access list with the following
15 steps:

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16     identifying an available reader with highest priority;
17     and

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18 returning result to said program.

19 11. A method according to claim 8, wherein said routine
20 comprises the steps of:

- 1 identifying a particular reader with the highest
- 2 priority by using said reader access list;
- 3 examining the availability of said particular reader;
- 4 if said particular reader is not available, identifying
- 5 a next reader with the next lower priority by using
- 6 said reader access list and examining the availability
- 7 of said next reader; and
- 8 repeating the steps of identifying and examining using
- 9 a subsequent lower priority as long as an available
- 10 particular reader is identified.
- 11 12. A method according to claim 10, wherein a newly added
- 12 reader automatically receives the lowest priority in
- 13 the reader access list.
- 14 13. A method according to claim 10, wherein programs having
- 15 no assigned priorities in the reader access list
- 16 receive a standard priority in said reader access list.
- 17 14. A method according to claim 10, including changing
- 18 assigned priorities and standard priorities using the
- 19 configuration tool.
- 20 15. A method according to claim 10, wherein the priority
- 21 (0) means that the reader is only available for
- 22 programs with this reader selected.

